

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PCH-02 CG-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-02 /053 R

DRAFTED BY EA/P:STAFF:PP

APPROVED BY EA/P:ARSEN

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R 302134Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

TREASURY

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC

COGARD

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST BY POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 283315

--- COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 30 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

AP (VIENTIANE) REPORTS INFORMED SOURCES SAYING AGREEMENT
REACHED WITH REBELS WHO SEIZED BAN HOUET SAI ON TUESDAY
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AND TOOK 19 AMCITS HOSTAGE (NYDN, WP, SUN). INFOMIN
SOUK ANNOUNCED SUNDAY THAT AGREEMENT CALLS FOR RELEASE
OF AMCITS, WITH GOVT ASSURING REBELS IT WILL TAKE STEPS
TO SATISFY THEIR DEMANDS FOR NEUTRALIZATION OF TOWN,

AN END TO BAN ON OPIUM GROWING, AND OUSTER OF CORRUPT CITY OFFICIALS (REUTER, NYT). AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IDENTIFIES 19 AMCITS, BUT HOMETOWNS NOT AVAILABLE (AP, SUN; REUTER, NYT). AP AND RADIO REPORT THAT AMCITS ARE FREED.

ILLERY

COMMUNIST FORCES ATTACKED TAY NINH SATURDAY WITH ARTILLERY WERE MILITARY BASE CAMPS AROUND CITY (REUTER, NYT).

2. THAILAND

RTG AGAIN EXILES THANOM; FORMER PREMIER HAD SLIPPED INTO BANGKOK FRIDAY, SETTING OFF PROTESTS FROM STUDENT-LABOR COALITION. THANOM SAID ON BANGKOK ARRIVAL THAT

HE ONLY WANTED TO SEE AND HELP HIS AILING 89-YEAR-OLD FATHER AND BECOME BUDDHIST MONK (AP, SUN, CSM, NYT, CHITRIB). THANOM, FATHER AND WIFE ARRIVED IN SINGAPORE SUNDAY, WHERE OFFICIALS SAID THEY WILL STAY IN THAI EMBASSY UNTIL OTHER ARRANGEMENTS MADE. SUN FRONTPAGES AP PHOTO OF THANOM AND WIFE ARRIVING IN SINGAPORE.

WP'S PALLING, IN BANGKOK, REPORTS TENSION IN CAPITAL HAS DIMINISHED CONSIDERABLY WITH THANOM'S DEPARTURE SUNDAY. SAYS DESPITE ANGER AT GOVT'S DELAY IN OUSTING THANOM, ONCE HE WAS OUT OF COUNTRY, THERE WAS VERY LITTLE STUDENTS COULD DO TO KEEP UP MOMENTUM OF DEMONSTRATION. OBSERVES THAT, IRONICALLY, STUDENT GROUP FOUND SUPPORT FOR ITS DEMANDS FOR THANOM'S EXPULSION FROM MILITARY ITSELF, ESPECIALLY GEN. KRIS, WHO WAS AT END OF TWO-WEEK SEA GOODWILL TOUR WHEN THANOM RETURNED; SOME SOURCES FEEL KRIS' ABSENCE MAY HAVE PROMPTED THANOM TO APPEAR WHEN HE DID.

AT SUNDAY MORNING PRESS CONFERENCE, SANYA DECLARED INQUIRY WILL BE MADE TO LEARN HOW THANOM GOT THROUGH CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION. ACCORDING TO BANGKOK PRESS UNCLASSIFIED

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REPORTS, RETIRED AIR CHIEF MARSHAL BOONCHOO MET THANOM AND PROVIDED UNAUTHORIZED MIL ESCORT INTO CAPITAL TO SEE HIS FATHER. SANYA EXPLAINED THAT UNEXPECTED DELAY IN THANOM'S DEPARTURE WAS CAUSED BY HIS WISH TO TAKE HIS FATHER WITH HIM AND TO TRY FIND COUNTRY CLOSER THAN US THAT WOULD ACCEPT THEM.

NYT'S MARKHAM, IN BANGKOK, DECLARES GOVT HAD INITIALLY TRIED TO PERSUADE THANOM TO RETURN TO US, "WHERE HE HAD BEEN UNHAPPILY EXILED," BUT HE REFUSED. CITES WITNESSES AT DEPARTURE FOR SINGAPORE SAYING THANOM'S WIFE, "WHO HAS REPORTEDLY DETESTED LIVING IN BOSTON AND LONGED FOR BANGKOK," WEPT PROFUSELY. DEPARTURE

WAS WATCHED BY EIGHT-MEMBER DELEGATION FROM NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER -- GESTURE TO STUDENTS INTENDED TO ALLAY SUSPICIONS. MARKHAM OBSERVES THAT CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT FROM AIRPORT FAREWELL WAS GEN. KRIS. RECALLS, IN RETROSPECT, THAT KRIS' REFUSAL 14 MONTHS AGO TO FIRE OF END FOR THANOM GOVT.

3. CHINA

VP (HK) REPORTS MANSFIELD ARRIVAL THERE MONDAY; TOLD PRESS CHOU "VERY FIT AND VERY MUCH IN COMMAND." SAID THOUGH HE DID NOT MEET MAO, HE HAD SUGGESTED TO CHINESE BEFORE LEAVING US THAT HE WISHED TO. UPI (HK) ADDS

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THAT MANSFIELD AIDE DISCLOSED THAT REPORT ON VISIT IS ALREADY BEING PREPARED FOR PRES. SENATOR SAID HE IS "IMPRESSED" BY PROGRESS MADE IN SINO-US RELATIONS. "THE PROGRESS IS BASED ON EFFORTS OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE, AND THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME CHINA WAS UNIFIED." ADDED HIS 55-MINUTE TALK WITH CHOU WAS "ANIMATED."

PEKING ANNOUNCES PLA WILL SUSPEND SHELLING OFFSHORE ISLANDS DEC 31 AND JAN 1, IN "EXPRESSION OF SOLICITUDE" TO ENABLE INHABITANTS "TO ENJOY THE NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS TOGETHER WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE COUNTRY" (PHINQ).

4. JAPAN

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GLOBE'S WHIPPLE IN CHICAGO WRITES THAT PRINCETON PROF MARTIN SHERWIN STATED IN PAPER READ TO AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSN THAT US POWS, KNOWN TO BE IN AREA BY WAR DEPT, MAY HAVE BEEN KILLED BY A-BOMB DROPPED ON NAGASAKI; HIS RESEARCH BASED ON US AND UK DOCUMENTS RECENTLY DECLASSIFIED.

WWII STRAGGLER NAKAMURA, BORN IN TAIWAN, TURNED OVER TO JAPANESE EMBASSY SUNDAY BY INDONESIANS (AP, NYT, WP, CHITRIB). ONE MORE HOLDOUT BELIEVED HIDING IN MOROTAI JUNGLE (UPI, NYDN).

REUTER (TOKYO) SAYS SELF DEFENSE FORCES HELP CLEAN UP 100 MILES OF INLAND SEA SHORELINE CONTAMINATED BY MILLION GALLON OIL LEAK FROM MITSUBISHI REFINERY (NYT). AP WIREPHOTO SHOWS TROOPS CLEANING UP BEACH IN WESTERN JAPAN (SUN).

DESCRIBING "COMPLEX, OFTEN FRUSTRATING" EFFORTS TO TRACK ELUSIVE PETRODOLLARS THROUGH WORLD FINANCIAL MARKETS IN MOST MASSIVE TRANSFER OF WEALTH IN HISTORY, WSJ'S STABLER SHOWS HOW RUMORS OF BILLION DOLLAR SAUDI

ARABIAN DEPOSIT IN JAPANESE BANKS CONFIRMED BY FACT THAT SA SURPLUS DIPPED BY THAT AMOUNT IN SEPTEMBER, AS JAPAN RECORDED FIRST BOP SURPLUS IN 19 MONTHS.

JOC CARRIES FULL PAGE OF REPORTS ON JAPAN. SAYS GOJ, FACED WITH NEED TO INCREASE SOCIAL WELFARE, TRIES TO HOLD JFY BUDGET BELOW 71 BILLION DOLS, 25 PERCENT OVER PREVIOUS JFY BUDGET, AND ABANDONS TAX CUTS AS INFLATIONARY. TRADE SURPLUS IN NOVEMBER, THIRD MONTHLY BOP SURPLUS IN ROW. STAFF CALLS TWICE-WEEKLY TOKYO-PEKING AIR SERVICE AN "IMPORTANT LINK" BETWEEN BOTH NATIONS, EVEN THOUGH IT RUNS IN RED WITH ONLY 50 PERCENT LOAD FACTOR.

NOTES JAL RENEWED OPTION ON THREE CONCORDES THROUGH 1975, IMPROVED VERSION OF WHICH COULD FLY TRANSPOLAR ROUTE TO EUROPE VIA ANCHORAGE. SAYS GOJ WILL PROVIDE 9.3 BILLION DOLLARS TO HELP FINANCE FIVE-YEAR ANTI-POLLUTION PROGRAM ADOPTED FRIDAY BY ANTI-POLLUTION COUNCIL, HEADED BY PM MIKI. NOTES OPTIMISM OF JAPANESE UNCLASSIFIED

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IMPORTERS ABOUT POSSIBILITY PRC CAN SHIP EIGHT TO TEN MILLION TONS OF CRUDE OIL TO JAPAN NEXT YEAR, AT SAME PRICES AS INDONESIA.

GOJ BUDGET COUNCIL RECOMMENDS 25 PERCENT INCREASE IN IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD BUDGET, TO HELP THEIR MAJESTICS KEEP PACE WITH INFLATION (PHINQ).

WSJ ROUNDUP QUOTES KUWAIT OIL MINISTER SAYING US AND UK ARE "BEST, MOST SECURE" COUNTRIES IN WHICH TO INVEST OIL MONEY, AND "JAPAN TOTALLY FORBIDS FOREIGNERS TO INVEST MONEY".

CSM'S OKA IN LONDON REVIEWS SAUDIA ARABIAN PLANS TO INVEST 30 BILLION IN BUILDING OWN HYDROCARBON INDUSTRY OVER NEXT FIVE TO EIGHT YEARS, WITH US, JAPAN AND WESTERN EUROPE OIL MAJORS TO JOIN IN MASSIVE VENTURE.

CSM'S SOUTHERLAND IN TOKYO WRITES THAT DIVISIVE BURAKUMIN ISSUE THREATENS TOKYO GOVERNOR MINOBE WITH LOSS OF COMMUNIST SUPPORT IN APRIL RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN; MINOBE HELPS OUTCASTS THROUGH BURAKUMIN LIBERATION LEAGUE, CRITICIZED BY JCP AS "CLIQUE".

NORTHWESTERN IOWA COLLEGE BEAT EAST JAPAN COLLEGE ALL-STAR FOOTBALL TEAM IN TOKYO, 14-0 (AP, NYDN).

PARADE MAGAZINE PERSONALITY PARADE SUNDAY DEC 29, IN REPLY TO QUERY WHY PRES. REFUSED TO PERMIT Q AND A SESSION AT JAPAN NATIONAL PRESS CLUB, SAID HE WAS SURE

JAPANESE NEWSMEN WOULD ASK ABOUT PRESENCE IN JAPAN
OF US NUKES, ONE SUBJECT HE DID NOT WANT TO DISCUSS.
TRTH, OF COURSE, IS THAT FROM TIME TO TIME WE BASE
OUR NUCLEAR SUBMARINES IN JAPAN, ENTER AND DEPART WITH
A VARIETY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS."

5. INDONESIA

SJ REPORTS KAISER CEMENT SAYING ITS 51 PERCENT-
OWNED INDONESIAN AFFILIATE, CIBINONG CEMENT, IS
EMBARKING ON 47.5 MILLION DOLLAR EXPANSION OF ITS
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PARTIALLY COMPLETED CEMENT PLANT IN W JAVA.

6. KOREA

AP TOKYO (NYDN) REPORTS PYONGYANG BROADCAST THAT NK
HARVESTED 7 MILLION TONS OF GRAIN IN 1974, AN INCREASE
OF 30 PERCENT OVER LAST YEAR. BROADCAST ADDED THAT
NATION'S GRAIN PRODUCTION - MOSTLY RICE AND MAIZE -
HAS DOUBLED IN 10 YEARS.

7. PHILIPPINES

AFP MANILA (WP) REPORTS MARCOS EXPRESSING STRONG SUPPORT
FOR WIDER CULTURAL COOPERATION BETWEEN GOP AND USSR
WHEN HE MET WITH THREE-MAN DELEGATION HEADED BY PRES
OF SOVIET COUNTERPART OF PHIL-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY.

8. AUSTRALIA

MOST PAPERS CONTINUE TO REPORT RELIEF OPERATIONS AND
EVACUATION OF DARWIN (NYT, WP, PHINQ, SUN, CSM, GLOBE).

AFP CANBERRA SAYS GOA EXPECTED TO APPROVE SPECIAL PLANNING
AND CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY MONDAY, TO HELP REBUILD
STRICKEN CITY; WHITLAM TO GIVE DETAILS ON TV,
BEFORE RESUMING TOUR OF EUROPE (WP). QANTAS ANNOUNCED
SUNDAY THAT ONE OF ITS 747S SET PASSENGER LOAD RECORD,
AIRLIFTING 674 EVACUEES (AP, PHINQ, WP, CSM).

WSJ COMMENTS THAT AUSTRALIA'S SECURITIES BUSINESS,
EXCEEDINGLY LAX BY US STANDARDS, FACES MORE SUPERVISION,
UNDER LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH NEW CORPORATIONS AND
EXCHANGE COMMISSION, ALONG LINES OF SEC; BILL SUBMITTED
TO PARLIAMENT EARLY THIS MONTH.

STONEHOUSE AND WIFE GO INTO HIDING IN MELBOURNE
FOLLOWING HIS RELEASE FROM DETENTION (WP).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

9. CHINA
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CSM'S HAYWARD IN NAIROBI (DEC 27) DISCUSSES SINO-SOVIET COMPETITION FOR INFLUENCE IN AFRICA. BOTH GRADUALLY HAVE ACQUIRED SUBSTANTIAL Footholds IN THE CONTINENT, AND THEIR PENETRATION IS INCREASING YEARLY. CHINESE ESTIMATED TO HAVE 25,000 WORKERS IN AFRICA, MAJORITY EMPLOYED ON PROJECTS SUCH AS NEARLY COMPLETED TANZAM RAILWAY FOR WHICH PRC PROVIDED MONEY, EQUIPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION CREWS. ESTIMATE OF SOVIET MANPOWER IS ABOUT 1,000, MOSTLY

MIL ADVISERS. INCREASING SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITY IN INDIAN OCEAN, AS WELL AS MOSCOW'S COMMITMENTS IN ME, CONTRIBUTE TO SOVIET ACTIVITY SOUTH AND EAST OF SAHARA.

LACK OF MAJOR WESTERN INTEREST IN MUCH OF BLACK AFRICA, COMPARED WITH ME, MEANWHILE TENDS TO TURN POORER NATIONS TOWARD SOCIALISM - AND FEELING SOCIALIST CHINA AND USSR CAN BEST AID THEIR LAGGING ECONOMIES. PRC'S MAJOR Foothold IN E AFRICA IS TANZANIA. BUT RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT BY ETHIOPIA'S MIL GOVT THAT IT WILL GO SOCIALIST, WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PROMPT CHINESE TO WORK HARD TO DEVELOP GREATER INFLUENCE THERE AS WELL, PUTTING PRC IN DIRECT POLITICAL COMPETITION WITH USSR.

CHINESE HAVE BUILT UP IMPRESSIVE ROSTER OF AFRICAN AID CLIENTS. IN SOMALIA, FOR EXAMPLE, THEY ARE BUILDING TWO MAJOR HWYS DESPITE SOVIET INFLUENCE, AND ARE BUILDING ROADS IN SUDAN. IN W. AFRICA, PEKING BUILDING HARBOR IN MAURITANIA, SUGAR PLANT IN MALI, AND IRRIGATION, CHEMICAL, AND TEXTILE PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES IN GHANA. SCOPE OF PRC INTEREST ALSO MANIFESTED IN 100 MILLION DOLLAR LOAN FOR AGRIC DEVELOPMENT IN ZAIRE, NEW AIRPORT FOR MAURITIUS, LOAN FOR DAM AND IRRIGATION WORKS IN UGANDA.

REGARDING LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, CHINESE PRESENCE IN TANZANIA ENABLED PEKING TO DOMINATE AID TO MOZAMBIQUE LIBERATION FRONT IN RECENT YEARS. ITS INFLUENCE ALSO EVIDENT IN ANGOLA LIBERATION FRONT
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AND MAOIST WING OF THE POPULAR MOVEMENT FOR ANGOLAN LIBERATION.

S-N (DEC 27) NOTES PRC'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF 1974 GRAIN

HARVEST EXCEEDING 250 MILLION TONS. ATTRIBUTES RECORD HARVEST - WORLD'S LARGEST - TO HARD WORK BY COUNTLESS MILLIONS, INTELLIGENT PLANNING OF AGRIC IMPROVEMENTS AND MASSIVE ORGANIZATION. THINKS THERE SHOULD BE LESSONS IN CHINESE EXPERIENCE FOR OTHER OVERPOPULATED PARTS OF THE WORLD, WHERE STARVATION HUNGRY PEOPLE SIT. GOVTS OF MANY OF THESE COUNTRIES, AS RECENT UN FOOD CONFERENCE SHOWED, ARE MORE INTERESTED IN REPROACHING "RICH" NATIONS FOR OVER-CONSUMING AND NOT GIVING ENOUGH AID THAN IN DEVELOPING THEIR OWN FOOD RESOURCES.

CONCLUDES THAT PERHAPS CHINESE EXAMPLE IS EXPORTABLE

WITHOUT THE IDEOLOGICAL BAGGAGE. SAYINGS OF MAO WILL NOT FILL EMPTY BELLIES, BUT CHINESE-TYPE DETERMINATION TO CULTIVATE EFFICIENTLY AND EXPAND FARM ACREAGE WOULD.

CDN'S KEYES BEECH IN TOKYO (LAT DEC 27) REPORTS JAPAN, PEKING'S BIGGEST CUSTOMER WHICH WAS SCHEDULED TO IMPORT NEARLY 5 MILLION TONS OF OIL FROM CHINA IN 1974, HAS REDUCED ITS CHINA IMPORTS BY NEARLY ONE MILLION TONS. THIS TEMPORARILY SETS BACK PRC'S BID TO BECOME MAJOR OIL SUPPLIER IN ASIA.

REASON FOR CUTBACK IS THAT JAPAN NOW HAS OIL GLUT - THE RESULT OF PANIC BUYING WHEN ARAB OIL CRISIS BROKE A YEAR AGO, COUPLED WITH DECLINING DEMAND BECAUSE OF WORSENING RECESSION. ANOTHER REASON IS THAT IT COSTS TWENTY CENTS A BARREL MORE THAN INDO OIL.

CDN'S KEYES BEECH IN HK (DEC 24) SAYS THAT IN CONTRAST TO DISASTROUS "GREAT LEAP FORWARD" OF 1950S, CHINA'S "NEW LEAP" PROMISES TO BE RATIONAL AND CONCENTRATE ON AGRICULTURE. PHRASE "NEW LEAP FORWARD" IN AGRIC HAS BEEN RECURRING THEME IN PROVINCIAL RADIO BROADCASTS; UNCLASSIFIED

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NO WORD ON SUBJECT HEARD FROM PEKING. CHINA-WATCHERS TAKE THIS TO MEAN THAT PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN READING AND REACTING TO DIRECTIVES THAT CENTRAL GOVT ISN'T READY TO DIVULGE. THEY ALSO TAKE IT TO MEAN THAT MODERATES ARE STILL FIRMLY IN CONTROL. CITES ANALYSTS THAT "IT LOOKS AS THOUGH 1974, WHICH BEGAN ON A NOTE OF REVOLUTION, WILL END ON A NOTE OF PRODUCTION."

MOST ANALYSTS CONVINCED THAT "NEW LEAP" GREW OUT OF ANTI-CONFUCIUS, ANTI-LIN PIAO MOVEMENT, WHICH MASKED POWER STRUGGLE FOR PARTY CONTROL. ONCE IT GOT OFF THE GROUND, MOVEMENT GOT OUT OF HAND AND

BEGAN TO HURT PRODUCTION. LINGERING CALLS FOR CONTINUING STRUGGLE HAVE BEEN ALL BUT DROWNED OUT BY CALLS FOR UNITY AND PRODUCTION. OBSERVERS TEND TO BELIEVE "NEW LEAP" IS AIMED AT SUPPRESSING MORE STUBBORN DISSIDENTS.
NP. INDONESIA

CSM'S MURARKA IN MOSCOW NOTES THAT ADAM MALIK RETURNED FROM MOSCOW WITH UNUSUAL CREDIT AGREEMENT, PROVIDING INDOS WITH CREDITS IN CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY AT VERY LOW INTEREST RATES. USSR WILL PARTICIPATE IN

VARIETY OF PROJECTS IN AGRIC, BASIC INDUSTRIES, AND POWER PLANTS. APPARENTLY, THERE IS NO FIXED AMOUNT OF CREDIT, AND IT WILL DEPEND ON WHAT PROJECTS ARE AGREED UPON BY BOTH SIDES. SOVIET TECHNICIANS AND ADVISERS WILL SOON BE GOING TO INDONESIA TO SET UP SUCH PROJECTS AND PLAN MANY OTHERS.

MORE CRUCIAL THAN ECON TIES ARE POLITICAL OVERTONES OF NEW RELATIONSHIP. IT APPEARS THAT PEKING AND MOSCOW ARE CONSCIOUSLY CONCENTRATING ON TWO DIFFERENT RIVALS AMONG SEA COUNTRIES, WITH PRC-MALAYSIA TIES GROWING.

THUS AFTER DISRUPTION CAUSED BY POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN INDONESIA NEARLY DECADE AGO AND GPCR IN CHINA, BOTH MOSCOW AND PEKING ARE RENEWING BID FOR INFLUENCE BY
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CHANGING PARTNERS, AS IT WERE. AT THAT TIME, PEKING BACKED INDO'S CONFRONTATION WITH MALAYSIA. AND WHILE MOSCOW DID NOT BACK MALAYSIA, IT DID TRY TO RESTRAIN SUKARNO.

RUSSIANS ARGUE THAT INDONESIA IS THE BIGGER AND MORE POWERFUL. IT IS ALSO LESS SUSCEPTIBLE TO PEKING'S INFLUENCE BECAUSE CHINESE MINORITY IS NOWHERE NEAR AS NUMEROUS OR AS POWERFUL IN INDONESIA AS IN MALAYSIA. RUSSIANS HAVE ALSO BEEN SOMEWHAT ANNOYED BY FANFARE WITH WHICH MALAYSIA GREETED ESTABLISHMENT OF ITS TIES WITH PEKING. SISCO

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED BUDAPEST.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EA PRESS SUMMARY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE283315
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/P:STAFF:PP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D740377-0765
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741276/abbrzagv.tel
Line Count: 427
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 8
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAY 2002 by colstocv>; APPROVED <27 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DECEMBER 30 EA PRESS SUMMARY
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
To: ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
TREASURY
BIEN HOA
CAN THO
DANANG
HONG KONG
NHA TRANG

JEC PARIS INFO USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC

COGARD

BUDAPEST BY POUCH

XMT SUVA

RANGOON

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005